

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1860

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

CINCUNC KOREA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, POPS, JA, KS

SUBJECT: TOKYO REACTIONS TO KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A. TOKYO 12710 B. STATE 211782

1. JSP AND KOMIETO INTERPELLED REGARDING KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS AT AUGUST 24 UPPER HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. IN RESPONSE, BOTH FONMIN MIYAZAWA AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN YAMAZAKI REPLIED ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: (A) THEY DID NOT CONSIDER REDEPLOYMENT OF US FORCES FOLLOWING PANMUNJOM INCIDENT REPRESENTED "OVER-REACTION;" (B) PURPOSE OF US ACTIONS APPEARED TO BE TO PREVENT DETERIORATION OF SITUATION TO POINT WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE USE OF FORCE; AND (C) DEPLOYMENT OF US FORCES FROM AND THROUGH JAPAN WAS CONSISTENT WITH MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY AND HAD NOT REQUIRED PRIOR CONSULTATION, BUT GOJ HAD BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTION, THEY STATED THEY SAW NO CONNECTION BETWEEN US ACTIONS AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2. YAMAZAKI WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH WAY SESSION WENT AND WAS APPRECIATIVE OF BRIEFING GIVEN
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BY EMBASSY PRIOR TO INTERPELLATION. THERE WERE NO

QUESTIONS ON KOREAN EVENTS AT AUGUST 26 LOWER HOUSE CABINET AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING. EMBASSY CONVEYED STATEMENT ON US COMMAND STRUCTURE REF B TO FONOFF (ENDO, NE ASIA DIVISION) WHO SAID QUESTION HAD NOT COME UP AS YET. ENDO DID ASK TO BE INFORMED IF US MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT ON COMMAND RELATIONS.

3. EDITORIAL IN AUGUST 24 SANKEI LINKED PANMUNJOM INCIDENT TO WHAT IT (AND SOME OTHER PAPERS) HAVE READ AS NORTH KOREA'S FAILURE AT COLOMBO NAM SUMMIT TO GAIN WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR ITS HARD-LINE RESOLUTION. DESCRIBING INCIDENT AS PART OF LARGER PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, SANKEI STATED THAT "EXTREMELY DANGEROUS GAMBLE" ON PART OF NORTH KOREANS HAD BACKFIRED AND IN FACT VALIDATED ROK ASSERTIONS OF NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION. EDITORIAL STATED THAT DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA WERE "ONLY WAY TO SETTLE KOREAN ISSUE" AND NOTED THAT THIS POINT WAS STRESSED IN RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY PRO-ROK NATIONS AT UN.

4. AUGUST 25 ASAHI EDITORIAL STATED: "IT APPEARS THAT THE TENSE SITUATION WHICH OCCURRED IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA AS A RESULT OF THE PANMUNJOM SCUFFLE IS CALMING DOWN BECAUSE PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG HAS EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT." EDITORIAL SAID BOTH NORTH KOREA AND US APPEAR TO HAVE "OVER-REACTED" BY ALERTING THEIR MILITARY FORCES. REGRETTING BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY EXCHANGE "BITTER CRITICISMS" AT FORTHCOMING UNGA, ASAHI CONCLUDED THAT "TOP PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PROMOTION OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN ORDER TO EASE TENSION IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA."

5. IN MARKED CONTRAST WITH REST OF TOKYO DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, SOVIET AND PRC EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN LOW-KEY AND BLAND IN THEIR COMMENTS OR AVOID SUBJECT OF PANMUNJOM ENTIRELY IN CONTACTS WITH EMBOFFS. CHINESE MINISTER TOLD EMBOFF "OUR VIEWS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIFFER, SO LET'S NOT DISCUSS THE QUESTION."
SHOESMITH

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